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COUNTY OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1949.



REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT
FOR THE YEAR 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee
of the Isle of Wight County Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report for the year 1949, on the Health and Vital Statistics of the Isle of Wight.

The year under review is the first full year in which the National Health Service has been in operation and it is possible now to view its operation and to assess its merits and its faults.

Such an Act was long overdue and it has been and will continue to be an inestimable boon to thousands of men, women and children in need of medical and other care. The fact that the Service has been misused or even abused does not detract from its value ; the misuse is due to defects in human nature and not to defects in the Act.

There are faults however which, although they will not wreck the Act, may make its smooth working uncertain. The splitting of the Mental, Health and Tuberculosis Services whereby the Hospital Boards are responsible for treatment and the Local Health Authorities for ascertainment, the shifting of the responsibility for the administration of infectious diseases hospitals from local authorities to hospital management committees, are only a few of the points which have already caused minor difficulties. Thanks however to the co-operation of all concerned, these have been ironed out.

There is one really serious difficulty however which is causing the greatest concern to general medical practitioners and medical officers of health ; the almost impossible feat of getting beds in hospital for the aged sick. Many factors are involved not the least of which is the lengthening of the lives of those already in hospital by the care they receive. Unfortunately the mental powers do not always last as long as the physical powers and this may explain the apparent eagerness of relatives to unload their aged sick on to the hospitals and their reluctance to take them home again when the physical condition is ameliorated.

Changes in the medical staff occurred during the year and Dr. Forsyth resigned to take up appointment an with the Peebleshire County Council and Dr. Cameron also resigned to return to general practice. Their places were taken by Dr. Muriel James and Dr. D. Warren Browne.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
WILLIAM S. WALLACE.

County Hall,
Newport, I.W.
June, 1950.

Throughout this Report the figures in brackets refer to those of the previous year.

TABLE I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF ALL DISTRICTS—1949.

Area.	Rural District	Cowes.	Newport.	Ryde.	Sandown-Shanklin.	Ventnor.	Whole County.	England & Wales : Rate per 1000
No. of live births	241	281	284	292	163	102	1363	
Males	122	143	132	165	93	45	700	
Females	119	138	152	127	70	57	663	
No. of still births	8	11	10	8	2	2	41	
Males	6	8	5	7	2	1	29	
Females	2	3	5	1	—	1	12	
Live Birth-rate per 1000 population	13.9	17.2	14.5	14.8	12.9	15.0	14.7	16.7
Still Birth-rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	32.1	37.7	34.0	26.7	12.1	19.2	29.2	
Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age	10	7	10	8	5	2	42	
Infantile mortality rate per 1000 live births...	41.5	24.9	35.2	27.4	30.7	19.6	30.8	32.0
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of child birth— ...								
(a) From Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
(b) From other causes	—	—	1	2	—	—	3	
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	
Total No. of Deaths	264	212	241	302	164	107	1290	
Males	144	119	104	151	81	49	648	
Females	120	93	137	151	83	58	642	
Crude death-rate per 1000 population	15.2	13.0	12.3	15.3	13.0	15.7	13.9	11.7
Comparative factor	0.71	0.81	0.86	0.72	0.71	0.71	0.77	
Comparative death-rate	10.8	10.5	10.6	11.0	9.2	11.1	10.7	
† Population—Registrar General's Estimate (Civilians only)	17390	16360	19650	19730	12650	6820	92600	
Population—Registrar General's Estimate (Civilians and Non-Civilians)	17580	16360	20110	19730	12650	6890	93320	

† These figures used for purpose of calculating Birth rate, Death rate or the incidence of notifiable diseases.

TABLE II. SHOWING VITAL STATISTICS DURING TEN YEARS.
(1940—1949 Inclusive.)

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
No. of Live Births ...	1160	1166	1325	1366	1396	1414	1616	1780	1483	1363
No. of Still births ...	44	43	42	39	29	47	42	29	40	41
Live birth-rate per 1,000 population ...	13.4	13.9	16.6	17.7	18.1	17.6	18.5	19.8	15.8	14.7
Still-birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	36.5	36.9	30.7	27.8	20.35	32.2	25.3	16.0	26.3	29.2
Live birth-rate per 1,000 population England & Wales	14.6	14.2	15.8	16.5	17.6	16.1	19.1	20.5	17.9	16.7
No. of deaths of infants under 1 year of age	47	53	37	47	49	51	50	68	40	42
Infantile mortality per 1,000 live births	39.8	44.8	27.9	34.4	35.1	36.1	30.9	38.2	27.0	30.8
Infantile mortality rate for England & Wales	55.0	59.0	49.0	49.0	46.0	46.0	43.0	41.0	34.0	32.0
Population—Registrar General's estimate...	86570	83020	80010	77310	77270	80350	87380	89750	93640	92600
No. of women dying in consequence of Childbirth:										
(a) From Sepsis	—	3	1	2	—	1	1	—	1	1
(b) From other causes	—	1	4	2	5	—	4	2	2	3

BIRTHS.

The number of live births was 1,363 (120 fewer than in 1948), giving a birth rate of 14.7 per 1,000 living (15.8). Eighty of these were illegitimate as against 101, 106 and 141 for the three previous years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Forty-two infants died in the first year of life giving an infant mortality rate of 30.8 (27.0). The rate for England and Wales was 32. Among illegitimate infants the rate was 50 per 1,000 illegitimate births.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered and corrected for inward and outward transfers was 1,290, 648 males and 642 females. Of these 72.01 per cent (71.3) were over 65 years of age.

Table III shows the number of deaths of certain diseases for the ten years 1940—1949.

TABLE III.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Whooping Cough	—	4	1	—	4	1	1	1	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	44	35	30	32	37	24	33	46	30	28
Other forms of tuberculosis ...	6	5	10	7	7	2	5	7	4	4
Influenza	46	21	17	39	13	6	16	6	3	18
Measles	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Cancer	192	162	166	159	184	185	186	202	186	186
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	130	128	127	125	148	136	147	162	145	137
Heart diseases	448	376	399	414	395	441	431	465	438	518
Other disease of circulatory system	22	18	22	21	25	27	23	37	34	33
Bronchitis	99	68	46	54	47	50	48	41	43	54
Pneumonia	54	37	35	26	28	25	21	36	33	35
Other respiratory diseases	22	12	19	11	12	19	9	10	14	11
Diarrhoea, under 2 years	5	—	1	1	—	3	—	10	1	2
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	3	1	2	—	1	1	—	1	1
Other maternal causes	—	1	4	2	5	—	4	2	2	3
Premature birth	12	17	13	19	14	9	10	18	11	13
Congenital malformation, birth injury and infantile diseases ...	18	30	15	16	24	24	28	30	28	23
Road traffic accidents	13	10	13	7	7	5	4	2	9	6
Other violent causes	33	54	122	99	38	18	24	24	21	25
Isle of Wight.										
Death rate per 1,000 Civilian Population	16.5	15.05	16.3	16.7	16.2	15.2	13.6	14.7	12.9	13.9
England & Wales.										
Death rate per 1,000 Civilian Population	14.3	12.9	11.6	12.1	11.6	11.4	11.5	12.0	10.8	11.7

N.B.—Comparative death rate figures have not been available since 1940. In that year the comparative death rate was 13.03. If comparative death rate figures were available, the Island figure would appear much more favourable than it does.

TABLE IV.

POPULATION OF COUNTY DISTRICTS.

Sanitary Authority.	Population at 1931 Census.	Registrar General's Estimate of Population for:				
		1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
I.W. Rural District ...	16538	14180	15440	15840	17140	17390
Cowes U.D. ...	16022	14700	15420	15720	16350	16360
Newport M.B. ...	18864	18170	19810	20310	20300	19650
Ryde M.B. ...	18472	17590	19080	19530	20090	19730
Sandown-Shanklin U.D.	11615	10560	12020	12600	13170	12650
Ventnor U.D. ...	6943	5150	5610	5750	6590	6820
Whole County ...	88454	80350	87380	89750	93640	92600

TABLE V. SHOWING DEATHS IN VARIOUS AGE GROUPS. 10 YEARS 1940—1949.

AGES.			1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
0 - 1	Males ...	...	25	30	21	31	27	33	27	38	19	27
	Females ...	...	22	23	16	16	22	18	23	30	21	15
	TOTAL ...	...	47	53	37	47	49	51	50	68	40	42
1 — 4	Males ...	...	13	9	9	8	10	6	6	6	11	8
	Females ...	...	11	8	12	4	7	4	3	5	3	2
	TOTAL ...	...	24	17	21	12	17	10	9	11	14	10
5 — 14	Males ...	...	5	7	5	5	2	7	5	1	2	4
	Females ...	...	6	7	9	5	6	5	2	6	3	2
	TOTAL ...	...	11	14	14	10	8	12	7	7	5	6
15 — 44	Males ...	...	55	50	62	52	44	38	33	45	41	37
	Females ...	...	42	45	75	50	55	38	37	24	30	32
	TOTAL ...	...	97	95	137	102	99	76	70	69	71	69
45 — 64	Males ...	...	190	133	131	142	131	121	129	132	108	139
	Females ...	...	142	130	120	122	120	118	77	117	109	95
	TOTAL ...	...	332	263	251	264	251	239	206	249	217	234
65 and over	Males ...	...	380	375	408	390	388	383	397	409	374	433
	Females ...	...	534	433	435	465	441	452	447	502	488	496
	TOTAL ...	...	914	808	843	855	829	835	844	911	862	929
GRAND TOTAL			1425	1250	1303	1290	1253	1223	1186	1315	1209	1290

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

(a) **Medical.** Whole-time.

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer and Welfare Officer

Assistant County Medical Officers (including maternity and child welfare, and school medical services) and Medical Officers of Health to various districts

Assistant County Medical Officers (mainly maternity and child welfare, and school medical services)

Dental Surgeon (Schools and maternity and child welfare services)

Assistant Dental Surgeons

Advisor—Mental Health Services

Superintendent of Health Visitors

Superintendent of Midwives

William S. Wallace, M.C., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
John Mills, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Deputy County Medical Officer).

John Cameron, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Resigned 15-12-49).

Donald Warren Browne, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H. (Appointed 28-11-49).

Anne Simpson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Charlotte Forsyth, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Resigned 10-12-49).

Muriel James, M.B., Ch.B. (Appointed 5-12-49).

Frederick George Harvey, B.D.S.

Gerald Simons, L.D.S.

Herbert John Nicholls, L.D.S.

Morris, Mrs., L.D.S. (Part-time).

Charles Davies-Jones, M.B., Ch.B.

Miss B. Filley, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., Dip. Nursing (Lond. University).

Miss E. Moss, S.R.N., S.C.M.

(b) **Others.** Whole-time.

Dental Nurse

Dental Attendants

Miss F. Willis, S.R.N. (Died 5-10-49).

Mrs. D. Dunn.

Mrs. M. Kemble.

Mrs. M. Wetherick. (Appointed 18-10-49).

Miss P. Twort, M.C.S.P., M.E., L.E.T.

Miss O. Abotomey, B.A., L.C.S.T. (Appointed 1-6-49).

Mr. R. F. Sullivan.

Miss C. Hind.

Mrs. W. Janion.

Physiotherapist

Speech Therapist

Ambulance Officer

Hospital Car Organizer

Home Help Organizer

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 187.

Registration of Nursing Homes.

At the beginning of the year, twenty-eight Homes were registered under the Public Health Act, and during the year two applications for registration were received. Two registrations were withdrawn during the year, one because the owner left the Island, and the other because the owner wished to discontinue taking patients. At the end of the year there were twenty-eight Nursing Homes registered, twelve for maternity cases only, six for maternity and other patients, and ten for non-maternity cases. One hundred and thirty-six inspections were made during the year.

Public Education in Health.

Forty-five lectures on health matters were given by the medical officers to various organisations, including 15 lectures given to the Health Visitors Course at Southampton University on physiology and hygiene.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The County Council's duties in connection with sampling under the Food and Drugs Act, 1948, are undertaken by the department of the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures. The following particulars relate to samples taken during the year :—

TABLE VI.—SHOWING FOODS AND DRUGS OF WHICH SAMPLES WERE SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

<i>Description.</i>	<i>Number obtained.</i>	<i>Number certified as satisfactory.</i>	<i>Number certified as adulterated or not up to standard.</i>
Milk	86	77	9
Milk (Appeal to cow, etc.)	6	3	3
Almond Substitute	4	—	4
Baking Powder	1	1	—
Baker's Filler (Almond Flavour)	1	1	—
Butter	2	2	—
Cake Flour Mixture	4	4	—
Canned Soup	1	1	—
Choc-Ice	2	2	—
Chocolate Roll	4	—	4
Cooking Oil	1	1	—
Cream Ices	1	—	1
Custard Mix	1	1	—
Custard Powder	1	1	—
Dried Milk	1	1	—
Emulsified Flavouring	1	1	—
Faggots	1	1	—
Flour (Plain, Self-raising and soya)	5	3	2
Gin	3	3	—
Glycerine, Lemon and Ipecac Mixture	1	1	—
Golden Raising Powder	1	1	—
Gelozone	1	1	—
Ice Cream	10	9	1
Lemonade Powder	2	2	—
Macaroni Milk Pudding	1	1	—
Malt Cup	1	1	—
Margarine	1	1	—
Pastry Mix	1	1	—
Pease and Potato Pudding	1	1	—
Piecrust and Pastry Mix	1	—	1
Popcorn	1	1	—
Quoffy	1	1	—
Rum	5	5	—
Salad Cream	5	5	—
Sausages	14	8	6
Sausage Meat	1	1	—
Savoury Sausages	2	2	—
Syrup made from Figs	1	1	—
Sweetened Fat	2	2	—
Preserves	4	1	3
Tincture of Iodine	1	1	—
Tomato Juice Cocktail (non-alcoholic)	1	1	—
Tomato Ketchup	1	1	—
Whisky	10	8	2
Vinegar, Malt	3	3	—
TOTAL ...	199	163	36

Number analysed by Public Analyst	112
Number analysed Departmentally—Milk	71
Spirits	16
	<hr/> 87
Total	<hr/> 199

TABLE VII.—SHOWING THE NUMBER OF SAMPLES OBTAINED FROM EACH AREA FOR THE PURPOSE OF ANALYSIS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

<i>District.</i>	<i>New Milk.</i>	<i>Other Samples.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Bembridge	9	—	9
Brading	3	—	3
Calbourne	—	2	2
Cowes	14	9	23
Freshwater	4	1	5
Godshill	1	—	1
Newport	12	26	38
Ryde	20	44	64
Sandown	6	8	14
Shalfleet	1	1	2
Shanklin	12	7	19
Totland	3	1	4
Ventnor	5	7	12
Whitwell	—	1	1
Yarmouth	2	—	2
	92	107	199

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACTS, 1944.

With effect from the 1st October, 1949, the Council's functions in respect of the issue of Producers Licences authorising the use of the special designations "Tuberculin Tested" and "Accredited" for milk were transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Certain functions relating to the issue of dealer's licences authorising the use of the special designation in relation to milk pasteurised or sterilised on the premises of the applicants, have, however, been transferred from the Local Authorities to the County Council.

The holders of licences as Tuberculin Tested Producers numbered 72 at the end of 1948 and 97 on the 30th September, 1949. Accredited Producers numbered 52 and 45. Ten producers transferred from the Accredited Roll to the Tuberculin Tested Roll during the period and there were 16 fresh additions. Three fresh licences were granted to Accredited Producers. One Tuberculin Tested Producer surrendered his licence as he gave up his farm and one Tuberculin Tested Licence was suspended on account of failure to maintain the requisite standard of clean milk. This producer was subsequently reinstated on the Tuberculin Tested Roll.

The herds of 66 of the 97 producers were on the Register of Attested Herds kept by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

To ensure that these milks reached the required standard of bacteriological cleanliness, samples were examined at the rate of one a month in the case of Tuberculin Tested Producers and every other month in the case of Accredited Producers. If a milk was found to be unsatisfactory, additional follow up samples were taken. If successive samples continued to fail the conditions under which the licence was issued were not being complied with and the registration was withdrawn.

The number of samples examined during the period under review was 1,085, 862 Tuberculin Tested and 223 Accredited. Of these, 76 Tuberculin Tested and 13 Accredited failed to pass the tests.

Miss Beamond, Milk Production Officer of the Isle of Wight Agricultural Executive Committee, was informed of failures as they occurred and she visited the farms concerned and advised the producers on their milking methods.

During the period under review the total number of animals officially tested in Tuberculin Tested and Attested Herds was 5,313, of which 28 reacted to the tuberculin test and were removed from the herds. The total number of animals clinically examined in Accredited herds was 1,662.

Under the Tuberculosis Order, 22 animals were slaughtered during 1949; 2 from Accredited Herds and 20 from Non-Designated Herds.

A total of 260 samples of milk were taken during the year from herds whose milk is not Tuberculin Tested and is retailed raw without heat treatment. These were examined for the presence of live Tubercle Bacilli at the Ministry of Health's Public Health Laboratory, Winchester. Five of these milks were found to be positive and arrangements were at once made with the producers to have the milk heat treated at the plant of the Isle of Wight Creameries, Ltd. The Divisional Inspector, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, took appropriate action to detect and deal with the offending animals.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

TABLE VIII.

1.	Number of Registered Dairy Farmers in the County 31-12-49 ...	...	...	...	...	559
	Number of visits to farms for all purposes by Vets ...	...	...	...	...	788
	Number of animals examined ...	...	...	...	...	19,038
	Number of animals slaughtered ...	...	...	...	...	22
2.	Number of samples taken for T.B., year 1949 ...	...	...	...	...	260
	Number of samples positive ...	...	...	...	...	5
	Number of Affected farms ...	...	...	...	...	5
	Number of visits to affected farms by Vets ...	...	...	...	...	8
	Number of cows slaughtered under T.B. Order as result of above ...	...	...	...	...	5

MILK SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS.

					<i>T.T.</i>	<i>Accredited.</i>
3.	Establishments at which milk is bottled ...	...	...	...	9	7
	Establishments at which milk was not bottled ...	...	...	...	88	38
	Totals ...	...	...	...	97	45

TABLE IX. SHOWING NUMBER OF SAMPLES COLLECTED.

<i>Designation.</i>	<i>No. of Samples Collected.</i>	<i>Type of Examination.</i>						<i>Examination for Tubercle Bacilli.</i>		
		<i>Methylene Blue.</i>		<i>B. Coli.</i>		<i>Phosphatase Test.</i>		<i>No. of Samples Exd.</i>	<i>Biological.</i>	
		<i>Passed.</i>	<i>Failed.</i>	<i>Passed.</i>	<i>Failed.</i>	<i>Passed.</i>	<i>Failed.</i>		<i>Pos.</i>	<i>Neg.</i>
Tuberculin Tested ...	862*	797	65	332	35	—	—	—	—	—
Accredited ...	223*	211	12	85	5	—	—	21	—	21
Pasteurised ...	72	72	—	—	—	69	3	—	—	—
Non-Design :	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	239	5	234
Totals ...	1157	1080	77	417	40	69	3	260	5	255

* Up to and including 30th September, 1949.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE
(CIVILIANS ONLY).

TABLE X.—NOTIFICATIONS MADE TO MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

			<i>Isle of Wight Rural District</i>	<i>Cowes.</i>	<i>Newport.</i>	<i>Ryde.</i>	<i>Sandown-Shanklin.</i>	<i>Ventnor.</i>	<i>Totals.</i>
Small Pox ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	27	8	12	8	9	6	70
Diphtheria ...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	1	2 (4)
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	...	...	7	4	8	2	—	3	24
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	—	1	4	1	1	—	7
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	...	...	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	—	2	3	3	2	—	10 (7)
Encephalitis ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-encephalitis ...	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ...	...	...	6	—	1	—	1	3	11
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	...	...	150	210	349	72	122	24	927 (396)
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	15	1	29	33	59	19	156 (333)
Dysentery ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ...	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Undulant Fever ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para Typhoid Fever ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	...	...	90	43	4	20	—	—	157
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	...	...	14	10	17	23	14	13	91 (64)
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	...	...	4	6	5	7	—	4	26 (28)
Totals ...	...	...	314	285	434	170	209	73	1485 (985)

Owing to the prevalence of measles, the number of notifications of infectious diseases exceeded the previous year's total by over 500. The number of cases of whooping cough notified was about half that of 1948 and that of poliomyelitis was increased by three.

Of the two cases of diphtheria, one was an adult and one a baby of 1 year 8 months, neither of whom had been immunised.

Acute poliomyelitis, although not so prevalent as in 1947, produced 11 cases during 1949. In 1947 there were 46 cases, in 1948 seven, so that for three years in succession, cases have occurred on the Island. Of the 11 cases notified during 1949, one developed in February, two in March, one in July, two in August, one in September, three in October and one in November.

TABLE XI.—CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN THE ISLAND DURING 1949, ACCORDING TO AGE GROUP.

Age.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Poliomyelitis.	Measles	Whooping Cough.	Food Poisoning.
Under 1	—	—	—	14	10	1
1 and under 2	1	—	—	78	20	1
2 and under 3	—	3	1	93	27	3
3 and under 4	—	9	—	92	15	2
4 and under 5	—	7	—	108	23	3
5 and under 10	—	42	4	464	51	9
10 and under 15	—	6	—	59	4	47
15 and under 25	—	1	1	6	—	23
25 and under 35	—	1	1	7	4	27
35 and under 45	1	—	1	5	1	23
45 and under 65	—	—	2	—	—	15
65 and over	—	1	—	1	1	3
Total ...	2	70	10	927	156	157

TABLE XII.—NOTIFICATIONS OF CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES RECEIVED DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS.

Disease.	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Small Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	58	21	47	125	116	109	66	41	102	70
Diphtheria ...	13	4	1	9	—	6	3	20	4	2
Enteric Fever	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	2	—	—	34	—	—	—
Pneumonia	38	39	18	29	20	7	23	24	26	24
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	12	20	24	15	12	13	20	15	6	7
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	20	13	3	2	2	3	2	2	1	2
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio Encephalitis ...	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	46	7	11
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Encephalitis Post Vaccinal ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	9	9	11	8	8	12	17	15	17	11
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	5	4	6	2	2	1	2	1	—
* Measles ...	121	726	77	426	975	231	566	605	396	927
* Whooping Cough ...	7	492	56	19	316	22	153	102	333	156
Dysentery ...	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1
Undulant Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Brucella Abortus Infection ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
† Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	157
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	69	59	90	103	108	98	90	118	64	91
Tuberculosis Non-Pulmonary	19	28	32	16	20	13	18	28	28	26

* Notifiable as from 23-10-39.

† Notifiable as from 1-1-49.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

Births.

During the year, 1,370 births were notified to the Health Department. Of these, 643 or 46.9 per cent were born at home. Of the remaining 727, 35.3 per cent were born in nursing homes and 17.8 per cent in hospitals. Of the total number, 1,334 were born alive and 36 were stillborn.

Table I shows that 1,404 births were registered on the Island: 1,363 live and 41 stillbirths and this is the true figure on which the birth rate is calculated. The number registered is 131 fewer than in 1948 and 405 fewer than 1947.

Thirty births which took place on the Island were not notified to the Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE XIII. DETAILS OF BIRTHS NOTIFIED TO THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER DURING 1949.

<i>Year 1949.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total Births.</i>	<i>Born at Home.</i>	<i>Born in Nursing Home.</i>	<i>Born in Hospital.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Live Births 	685	649	1334	633	471	230	1334
Still Births 	26	10	36	10	12	14	36
Total 	711	659	1370	643	483	244	*1370

*N.B.—It will be noted that there is a difference of 29 more live births and 5 more still births recorded by the Registrar General and entered in Table I of this report. The reason for this apparent discrepancy is that in Table XIII only the births notified in the actual year are entered, whereas, in the Registrar General's figures all births registered during the year (including those unnotified) but corrected for inward and outward transfers are entered.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

There is no material change since the 1948 report. The clinics on the whole were well attended and the co-operation with general practitioners begun in 1948 has continued and in most areas the closest liaison exists. More and more patients are being referred to the clinics by their own doctors for the routine services which these clinics can give.

The total number of new cases attending the 213 clinic sessions was 657 and the total attendances made was 1,726. It will be seen therefore that almost 50 per cent of the expectant mothers attended the Council's ante-natal clinics during the year.

The medical officers in charge of the ante-natal clinics work in complete harmony with the consultant appointed by the Regional Hospital Board and arrangements are being made for a consultative clinic to be established at the County Hall, Newport, to which abnormal cases can be referred as can also cases which are to be admitted to hospital for social reasons.

The number of sterilised maternity outfits issued at the ante-natal clinics during the year was 572.

Post-Natal Clinics.

No special post-natal clinics are held but post-natal examinations are made by appointment at ante-natal clinics or welfare centres. In all 73 new cases attended and 87 examinations were made.

FAMILY PLANNING.

Monthly clinics are held at the County Hall, Newport, and at the Church Hall, Well Street, Ryde, where women specifically recommended by medical practitioners for advice are seen by one of the Assistant County Medical Officers. The clinic in the latter hall only commenced in December.

The number of sessions held during the year was 13 at which 72 women attended making in all 107 attendances.

Infant Welfare.

One new centre was opened during the year and the existing 23 centres continued to be well attended. Attendances amounted to 13,369 (12,877), 8,292 by infants under one year and 5,077 by children between one and five years.

TABLE XIV.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

Name of Centre.	Place where Held.	How often Held.	Day and Time on which Doctor Attends. (All times are p.m.)	No. of Children who attended Centres during the year.	No. of Children who first attended the Centres during the year and who on the date of their first attendance were :—		No. of Children in attendance at the end of the year who were then :—		Total No. of attendances made by Children in- cluded in column (5)	
					Under 1 year of age.	Over 1 year of age.	Under 1 year of age.	Between the ages of 1 and 5.		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
Bembridge Brading Brightstone and Brooke Calbourne Carisbrooke	Chapel Room Church Room Wilberforce Hall The Rectory Church Hall	Monthly Monthly Monthly Occasionally Twice Monthly	First Tuesday at 2.30 Second Tuesday at 2.30 Third Tuesday at 3.0 Fifth Tuesday at 3.0 Third Wednesday at 2.30	62 137 53 26 72	13 21 14 6 22	1 9 — — 4	19 16 12 5 21	43 121 41 21 51	102 114 70 25 180	119 123 91 29 172
Chale East Cowes	Methodist Church Hall Church Hall	Monthly Twice Monthly	Fourth Tuesday at 3.0 First and third Thurs- days at 2.30	24 234	4 36	1 2	2 31	18 241	42 408	67 338
Cowes	Northwood House	Weekly	Second and fourth Wednesdays at 2.30	237	93	17	89	142	1290	505
Freshwater	British Legion Hut, Princes Rd. Village Hall County Hall	Twice Monthly	Second Tuesday at 2.30	33	14	9	10	23	36	61
Godshill Newport	Women's Institute Hall, Whitwell Women's Institute Hall	Monthly Weekly	Third Monday at 2.30 First and Third Thurs- days at 2.30	39 488	11 151	2 41	8 143	31 342	68 1974	88 1005
Niton and Whitwell	Women's Institute Hall, Whitwell	Monthly	Second Friday at 3.0	48	18	1	10	38	92	71
Northwood	Women's Institute Hall	Twice Monthly	Fourth Wednesday at 2.30	74	25	6	27	47	218	118
Ryde	Methodist Hall, Well St.	Weekly	Wednesday at 2.30	358	281	12	157	87	2457	633
St. Helens	Lower Green, Metho- dist Sunday School Methodist Hall	Monthly Twice Monthly	Fourth Thursday at 2.30	55 214	19 84	3 8	13 76	42 138	96 669	151 408
St. Lawrence Seaview Shanklin	Village Hall Methodist School Methodist Hall, Regent St.	Monthly Monthly Twice Monthly Second and fourth Tuesdays	Fourth Friday at 2.30 First Monday at 2.30 Fourth Tuesday at 2.30	13 62 73	4 31 28	4 31 8	4 11 24	9 51 49	21 30 145	9 139 179
Shorwell Ventnor	Chapel Hall Church Hall, Alpine Rd.	Monthly Twice Monthly First and third Fri- days	Second Thursday at 3.0 First Friday at 2.30	24 68	4 20	2 5	2 16	19 44	20 94	61 340
Wootton Wroxall Yarmouth	Methodist Hall Church Hall The Institute	Monthly Monthly Monthly	Fourth Friday at 2.30 First Friday at 2.30 Third Friday at 30.	18 55 49	6 15 17	1 6 5	5 15 10	13 45 38	19 67 55	25 209 136

N.B.—At the time of going to print, the day and time of the Bembridge Welfare Centre has been altered to the third Monday at 2.30.

Care of Premature Babies.

All babies with a birth weight of under 5½lbs. are notified to the Local Health Authority and suitable action taken. Table XV shows particulars of the number notified and the fate of these babies up to the end of four weeks.

TABLE XV. CARE OF PREMATURE OR UNDERWEIGHT INFANTS.

(i.e. babies weighing 5½lbs. or less at birth.)

	1949.	1948.
Number of notified premature or underweight infants born on the Island during 1949 and 1948	88	83
Percentage of all live births	6.5	5.6
Number of premature babies notified who were :—		
(a) Born at home	31	39
(b) Born in hospital	35	21
(c) Born in nursing homes	22	23
Number of those born at home :—		
(a) Nursed entirely at home	29	35
(b) Removed to hospital	2	4
Number of those born at home who died :—		
(a) During the first 24 hours	7	2
(b) Between 2nd and 28th day	1	4
Number of those born at home who survived at the end of four weeks...	23	33
Number of those born in hospitals who died :—		
(a) During the first 24 hours	4	3
(b) Between 2nd and 28th day	6	—
Number of those born in hospitals who survived at the end of four weeks ...	25	18
Number of those born in nursing homes :—		
(a) Who died during the first 24 hours	2	3
(b) Who died between the 2nd and 28th day	—	2
(c) Who survived at the end of one month	20	18

Orthopaedic Treatment.

Children under five with orthopaedic defects are seen at the clinic at the County Hall which is held monthly and to which the Regional Hospital Board sends a consultant. During the calendar year 93 attendances were made by children under school age. Four children were referred from this clinic for treatment at the Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, Alton.

Visual Defects.

Twenty-five children under school age attended the eye clinics of whom 7 were fresh cases and 18 were re-examinations of children seen previously. Five children had spectacles prescribed, 2 had spectacles renewed, in 2 the glasses previously supplied were still suitable and 16 did not require spectacles. One child was referred for Orthoptic treatment.

Dental Treatment.

The Council's Senior Dental Surgeon has kindly furnished the following report :—

“Throughout the year there have been regular dental examinations, at each of the Welfare Centres, for all expectant and nursing mothers and also for children of pre-school age.

There has been subsequent treatment available for all who needed it, the work being carried out entirely by one part-time dental officer. Good progress has been made and the response to offers of treatment has been excellent. There is a fair amount of time-wastage through missed appointments, but that appears to be inevitable when dealing with expectant mothers or those with infant children.

The total number of mothers examined was 300, of whom 221 were referred for treatment. One hundred and fifteen children were found to require treatment out of a total of 486 examined. All of these received treatment.

X-Ray examination is available in the various hospitals and dentures are supplied, when necessary, by the dental officer. A dental mechanic is employed and paid per case.”

A summary of the work performed is as follows :—

TABLE XVI. NUMBERS PROVIDED WITH DENTAL CARE.

	<i>Examined.</i>	<i>Needing Treatment.</i>	<i>Treated.</i>	<i>Made Dentally Fit.</i>
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	300	221	172	161
Children under five	486	115	115	110

TABLE XVII. FORMS OF DENTAL TREATMENT PROVIDED.

	<i>Extractions.</i>	<i>Anaesthetics.</i>		<i>Fillings.</i>	<i>Scalings or Scaling and gum treatment.</i>	<i>Silver Nitrate treatment.</i>	<i>Dressings (Including denture fittings).</i>	<i>Radio-graphs.</i>	<i>Dentures provided.</i>	
		<i>Local.</i>	<i>General.</i>						<i>Complete.</i>	<i>Partial.</i>
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	531	421	57	267	35	—	456	1	20	18
Children under five	149	97	5	270	—	8	—	—	—	—

MIDWIFERY SERVICES.

During the year 77 midwives notified their intention to practise of whom 59 practised throughout the year and 18 for part of the year.

At the end of the year 65 state certified midwives were practising in the Isle of Wight ; eight in hospitals, 13 in nursing homes, five independently and 39 on the nursing staff of the Local Health Authority. Of these last, 32 were practising midwifery regularly and seven occasionally.

In addition, four state certified midwives notified their intention to practise as maternity nurses during the year.

In supervising the work of the midwives, 134 routine and 7 special visits of inquiry were made.

According to the returns submitted by those 77 midwives and one maternity nurse (not a midwife), the total number of confinements attended during the year numbered 1,383. Of these, 860 were attended as maternity nurses and 523 as midwives. The corresponding figures for 1948 were 791 and 720 showing that the tendency since the Act came into force is for the general practitioner to undertake more and more midwifery.

Of the 1,383 confinements attended by midwives, those employed by the Council attended 637 domiciliary confinements, 238 as midwifery cases and 399 as maternity cases.

In 79 instances midwives sent for medical aid and an analysis of the aid forms shows that 69 were in respect of the mother, seven in respect of the child and three in respect of both mother and child. A further analysis of the 69 in respect of the mother shows that 26 were for complications of pregnancy (12 for miscarriage or threatened miscarriage), 38 for causes arising out of labour and five for causes arising after labour.

Of the 38 causes arising during labour :—

18 were on account of obstructed or delayed labour
 1 was „ „ „ abnormal presentation
 1 was „ „ „ haemorrhage
 17 were „ „ „ ruptured perineum
 1 was another cause.

In addition to the above summonses for medical aid, the midwives notified 11 stillbirths, 12 performing last office, nine liability to be a source of infection, six artificial feeding and two deaths of children.

Caesarean Section.

Thirty-four of the deliveries on the Island were by section. Fifteen took place at the Royal I.W. County Hospital, eight at St. Mary's Hospital, four at Shanklin Cottage Hospital, three at the East Cowes Cottage Hospital and four in nursing homes.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Seven cases were notified during the year, four in Newport Borough and one each in Ryde Borough, Cowes Urban District and Sandown-Shanklin Urban District. Five of the cases developed in domiciliary deliveries and two in nursing home deliveries. Three of the cases were transferred to the Fairlee Isolation Hospital.

Maternal Deaths.

There were four maternal deaths during the year, one being classed as due to puerperal sepsis and three to other puerperal causes.

Administration of Gas and Air Analgesia.

At the end of the year, 34 midwives were qualified to administer analgesics in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives Board. During the year, in 207 cases delivery was accomplished under Gas and Air Analgesia.

There is some difference of opinion among the Council's midwives as to the value of this type of analgesia : so much depends on the midwife herself and the influence she has on her patient, and many midwives believe that the effect of the gas and air analgesia is mainly psychological. While not subscribing entirely to this view, I feel sure that given a placid women with complete faith in her midwife, the nitrous oxide does give sufficient analgesia to mask pain, whereas in the more anxious excitable type of patient without complete faith, double the amount of nitrous oxide would have little effect simply because the apparatus is not used to the best advantage

HEALTH VISITING SERVICE.

The Council participates in the scheme for the training of health visitors at University College, Southampton, and during the year three nurses were sent to the course which will be completed in 1950.

A new conception of the work of the health visitor is beginning to take shape and the health visitor of the future will not be solely the advisor of the mother on the rearing of her baby but the family advisor on all matters pertaining to the preservation of health.

No whole-time health visitors were available on the Island during 1949 but it is hoped to lay the foundations of a whole-time health visiting service in 1950 if the "nurse power" situation warrants this.

The general duty nurses in the Council's employ have paid during the year 17,103 visits and attended the necessary clinics.

HOME NURSING SERVICE.

The demand on the Council's home nursing service is still increasing. This is not due to any increase in ill health but to other factors such as the scarcity of hospital beds especially for the aged sick.

During the year the general duty nurses acting as home nurses paid 61,855 visits to 3,267 cases.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

The tables set out below show fully the work done under Section 26 of the National Health Service Act. The numbers of vaccinations and immunisations shown in the first table are the numbers in respect of which the necessary certificates were received during the year and are more than the actual numbers done. This is because many general medical practitioners held up the certificates until the fees for certificates had been negotiated. The actual numbers done in 1949 were 634 vaccinations and 1,230 immunisations.

No other form of immunisation was carried out during 1949.

TABLE XVIII gives the position as far as is known for the period 1st January—31st December, 1949.

	Vaccinations.		Number of persons Re-Vaccinated		Diphtheria Immunisations.		
	Children under 5	Age 5 +	Children under 5	Age 5 +	Children Immunised.		No. of Children who received re-inforcing doses.
					Under 5	Over 5	
By General Practitioners	307	113	5	199	440	36	35
By Authority's Staff ...	213	22	—	46	609	176	735

TABLE XIX. SUMMARY OF CHILDREN IMMUNISED IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

	<i>Urban Districts.</i>			<i>Borough Districts.</i>		<i>Rural District.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	<i>Cowes</i>	<i>Sandown-Shanklin</i>	<i>Ventnor</i>	<i>Newport</i>	<i>Ryde</i>	<i>I.W.R.D.</i>	
Number born in years as stated below and fully immunised by 31-12-49:							
1949	12	19	4	22	13	26	96
1948	143	79	54	188	33	165	662
1947	161	156	86	225	172	223	1023
1946	154	131	53	183	136	182	839
1945	145	120	39	192	100	137	733
Total	615	505	236	810	454	733	3353
Total estimated population of children under 5 at mid-year 1949 ...	1512	890	593	1488	1542	1405	7430
Percentage fully immunised by 31-12-49 ...	40.7	56.7	39.8	54.5	29.4	52.2	45.1
Number of children born in 5—9 age group as stated fully immunised by 31-12-49:							
Ages 5—9, <i>i.e.</i> , born 1940-44 ...	680	636	220	1204	725	764	4229
Ages 10—14 ...	702	504	249	1123	721	796	4095
Total	1382	1140	469	2327	1446	1560	8324
Total estimated population of children 5—14 years	2051	1593	925	2444	2412	2245	11670
Percentage of children age 5—14 years immunised on 31-12-49 ...	67.4	71.6	50.7	96.4	60.0	69.5	71.3
Total number of children immunised on 31-12-49	1997	1645	705	3137	1900	2293	11677
Percentage of children under 14 immunised on 31-12-49	56.0	66.3	46.4	79.8	48.1	62.8	61.1

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The ambulance service functioned well during the year and met all demands with very few complaints of delay. All complaints of delay were fully investigated and most of them unsubstantiated by facts. In one case there was considerable delay in the arrival of the ambulance but the facts proved that the delay was in summoning the ambulance. In the other cases the period elapsing between the time of say an accident and the arrival of the ambulance was wrongly judged by persons eagerly awaiting the arrival of help.

The demand on the ambulances has greatly increased since 1948. In that year the average monthly mileage of the directly provided ambulances rose from approximately 3,500 to approximately 5,000 in 1949. The total mileage covered in the 6 months of 1948 was 20,444 and for the year 1949 was 56,665. The ambulances provided by the agency services have been used to approximately the same extent as in 1948.

The hospital car service has been a great boon and has been most efficiently run by the organiser. The demand for this service has also increased far beyond what was anticipated and it is only because of the grand response of those ladies and gentlemen who use their cars for this purpose that the vast majority of the requests have been met. Despite the demand for medical certificates as to the unfitness of those concerned to use public means of transport, the numbers of requests for hospital car transport has probably doubled since 1948. (Full records were not available until November, 1948). The greatest increase is in the demand for transport to and from the hospitals out-patient departments. Transport for new cases for physiotherapy is continually being requested but the old cases go on for months and months and it is only when a fresh certificate is asked for that any of these cases appear to have derived sufficient benefit from their treatment to be able to use public transport.

Complaints are frequently received from the drivers of long waits at out-patient departments and frequent requests have been made to the hospitals concerned to overhaul the appointment system. One must appreciate the hospitals' difficulties. Every patient is different and it is no easy matter to determine the time which each consultation will take. It would be unfair too if the out-patient department gave priority to patients who travelled by hospital car at the expense of those who have travelled by bus and may have to catch a special bus back home. The car drivers however must be considered for many of them are married women with houses to run and to be kept standing at an out-patient department from 10 a.m. till the lunch hour must be very galling.

One cannot help feeling that if the hospital authority had to organise and pay for the hospital car service further efforts would be made to lessen the demand for the service and increase consideration for the drivers.

The Ambulance Service is an expensive service for the Isle of Wight because of our geographical position and it is quite possible for ferry charges to amount to almost £10 for the conveyance of one patient if taken to a hospital on the mainland and brought back within three months. The Island, too being a health resort, attracts a large number of invalids and many of these appear to deteriorate and require ambulance transport to take them back—a charge on the Island ratepayers. There is a National Hospital on the Island to which patients come from all parts of the country. Most of these come by train to Portsmouth, travel to the Island and expect to be met by an ambulance or car at Ryde Pier Head. Each time this happens it costs the ratepayers 2/9 or 3/-.

TABLE XX shows the use which has been made of the ambulance service during the year.

		<i>No. of Vehicles at 31st December, 1949.</i>	<i>Total No. of Journeys during the year ended 31st December, 1949.</i>	<i>Total No. of patients carried during the year ended 31st December, 1949.</i>	<i>No. of Accident and other Emergency Calls included in col. 3 during the year ended 31st December, 1949.</i>	<i>Total Mileage during the year ended 31st December, 1949.</i>	<i>No. of Journeys to Mainland by Island Ambulances.</i>	<i>No. of Mainland Journeys arranged through Portsmouth or Southampton.</i>
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Directly Provided Service	Ambulances	6	2883	3229	222	56665	72	71
	Cars ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Agency Service ...	Ambulances	2	499	699	56	13384	9	—
	Cars ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Supplementary Services	Ambulances	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Cars ...	35	3076	3519	59	53555½	—	—

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS: CARE AND AFTER CARE.

(A) Tuberculosis.

Dr. Easton, formerly the Council's Clinical Tuberculosis Officer, was taken over by the Regional Hospital Board on the 5th July, 1948. During 1949 arrangements were made with the Board for three-elevenths of Dr. Easton's time to be made available to the Local Health Authority. In this way one of the defects in the National Health Service Act has been overcome, viz., the splitting of the Tuberculosis Service. Continuity is thus maintained between ascertainment, treatment and after care.

The Council's accepted proposals under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act were extended to provide B.C.G. vaccination "by a physician with specialist knowledge and experience of tuberculosis, for persons to whom it is judged medically expedient, subject to the necessary preliminary tests, in view of their known contact with tuberculosis infection".

The Council would have preferred to make B.C.G. vaccination more widely available but the Minister could not see his way at present to agree.

As the approval was only given in December, no vaccinations under this scheme were carried out in 1949.

The Tuberculosis Health Visitor paid 794 domiciliary visits during the year and investigated the environment, circumstances, etc., of each new patient and arranged for the examination and supervision of contacts.

Assistance in the form of milk grants was given to 10 patients and all cases recommended by the Chest Physician were provided with garden shelters, beds, bedding or clothing, etc.

During the year, 9 shelters were out on loan and the following articles were provided in respect of one patient :—

2 Blankets ;
2 Pairs Sheets ; and
4 Pillow Cases.

The total number of X-Ray examinations made under the tuberculosis scheme during the year was 2,564 ; 1,989 of these were for diagnosis or as a guide to treatment and 575 were of contacts.

Sixty-two patients in all were admitted to Sanatoria or Hospitals during 1949.

TABLE XXI.—SHOWING THE NUMBER OF NEW CASES AND THE DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory System.		Other Forms.		Respiratory System.		Other Forms.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— ...	4	—	2	1	1	—	—	—
5— ...	1	3	4	5	—	—	—	—
10— ...	4	1	6	2	1	—	—	—
15— ...	1	5	1	—	—	—	—	—
20— ...	5	6	—	1	2	—	—	—
25— ...	7	11	2	1	3	6	—	1
35— ...	10	4	2	1	3	1	1	—
45— ...	13	4	1	—	7	—	1	—
55— ...	7	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
65 and upwards	2	5	—	1	—	1	—	1
Totals 1949 ...	54	40	18	12	19	9	2	2
Totals 1948 ...	43	34	9	21	18	12	3	1

These figures include a few patients who have been re-instated on the register.

Table XXI shows all the new cases and includes primary notifications 94, transfers from other areas 23, information gained from death returns, including inward transfers 5, and cases replaced on the register because they had returned to the Island 2.

TABLE XXII.—SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTERS SHOWING THAT THERE WERE 683 CASES ON THE REGISTER ON THE 1st JANUARY and 722 ON THE 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

Note.—This table does not include the deaths of persons not previously notified as suffering from tuberculosis and therefore not on the registers ; hence the apparent discrepancy as regards new cases and deaths when tables XXI and XXII are compared.

Number of Patients.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
On Register at end of 1948	306	216	74	87	380	303
Added during 1949 (new cases) ...	43	27	14	10	57	37
Cases removed from other areas ...	10	11	2	—	12	11
Old cases left, re-admitted	—	2	—	—	—	2
Old case 'Lost sight of' re-admitted ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Old 'Cured' re-admitted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Old 'Mistaken diagnosis' re-admitted ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gross Total	359	256	90	97	449	353
Removed to other areas during 1949 ...	10	13	4	—	14	13
Removed—'Lost sight of'	—	1	—	—	—	1
Removed—Diagnosis unconfirmed ...	1	—	—	—	1	—
Removed from Register as being 'Cured'	3	8	2	5	5	13
Died during 1949	17	9	*1	—	18	9
Died from other diseases	5	1	—	—	5	1
Totals to be removed from Register	36	32	7	5	43	37
Number on Register at the end of 1949	323	224	83	92	406	316

* One notified non-pulmonary male died from pulmonary disease.

TABLE XXIII. DETAILS OF NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS RECEIVED.
(FRESH ISLAND CASES ONLY.)

Year.	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Total.
	Male	Female		Male	Female		
1935 ...	34	30	64	15	12	27	91
1936 ...	26	29	55	8	14	22	77
1937 ...	35	28	63	26	17	43	106
1938 ...	30	29	59	8	15	23	82
1939 ...	33	23	56	10	7	17	73
1940 ...	34	17	51	14	4	18	69
1941 ...	24	18	42	10	14	24	66
1942 ...	50	21	71	12	18	30	101
1943 ...	49	38	87	10	4	14	101
1944 ...	49	33	82	7	13	20	102
1945 ...	39	31	70	11	2	13	83
1946 ...	42	20	62	5	9	14	76
1947 ...	37	36	73	17	11	28	101
1948 ...	23	18	41	8	16	24	65
1949 ...	43	27	70	14	10	24	94

(B) Other Illness.

Except in the case of children, very few requests have been received from the hospitals for after care of patients discharged from these hospitals. An occasional request for domestic help or holiday home care are received.

Seven persons were admitted to the Guy's Memorial Home at "Glenochie", Gurnard, for holiday care by arrangement with the proprietors. This Council also accepted financial responsibility for one patient admitted to Avon House, Tankerton Road, Whitstable.

Patients are required to contribute towards this treatment according to a scale adopted by the Committee and in one case the full cost was repaid, in five part of the cost and in two instances no contributions were required from the patients.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

This service, perhaps the most appreciated of all the Council's services, has gone on expanding and the Local Health Authority has as yet placed no limit to its expansion. It was never anticipated that help would have to be provided for old persons who should be in hospital but by reason of the shortage of hospital beds for the aged sick, the Domestic Help Service has had to cater for a large number of these cases.

The Organizer has done an excellent job and has recruited a very good type of help and many letters of gratitude and praise of the service rendered by these women have been received. Complaints of course have been received but these have either been of the amount assessed to be paid or of the number of hours of help allowed. There are certain types who, the more they get 'the more they want' and who are selfish enough to consider only themselves.

In my report for 1948, I remarked that the effect of the season on the Service had yet to be experienced but I am glad to say that the effect as far as losing helps was concerned was negligible.

The following table shows the position for each month of the year with the corresponding figures for 1948 in brackets.

TABLE XXIV.

<i>Month.</i>	<i>No. of Home Helps employed.</i>	<i>No. of cases served.</i>	<i>Contributions required in full.</i>	<i>Part contributions required.</i>	<i>No contributions required.</i>
January	31	83	59	15	9
February	34	90	63	14	13
March	38	93	66	14	13
April	32	92	49	21	22
May	33	95	59	20	16
June	32	95	54	17	24
July	27 (8)	99 (25)	59 (19)	21 (2)	19 (4)
August	27 (10)	104 (37)	62 (31)	19 (1)	23 (5)
September	30 (13)	125 (49)	69 (41)	24 (2)	32 (6)
October	35 (23)	112 (70)	56 (53)	22 (9)	34 (8)
November	36 (28)	119 (78)	58 (51)	20 (14)	41 (13)
December	38 (32)	123 (78)	57 (52)	21 (18)	45 (8)

MENTAL HEALTH.

Administration.

A Mental Health Sub-Committee meets quarterly, and consists of 17 members (13 County Councillors and 4 Co-opted Members).

The County Medical Officer administers the service and he has as his expert advisor a psychiatrist, a former Medical Superintendent of the Mental Hospital and Medical Officer to the Mental Deficiency Committee. In addition, two of the Assistant County Medical Officers have taken special courses in the ascertainment of mental defectives.

The non-medical staff consists of a part-time psychiatric social worker for work among the children. For social work among adults it is hoped to obtain the part-time services of the psychiatric social worker when one is appointed by the Hospital Management Committee.

No duties under this section of the Act, have, as yet, been delegated to Voluntary Associations nor has any action been taken, so far, for the training of mental health workers.

ACCOUNT OF WORK UNDERTAKEN IN THE CARE OF THE COMMUNITY.

Section 28, National Health Service Act, 1946.

Prevention, Care and After-care ... No preventative work has yet been undertaken other than supervision and the guardianship of young mental defectives.

No request has been received from the Mental Hospital for any After-care.

Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890—1930.

The work under the Lunacy Act and the Mental Treatment Acts, is carried out by two Duly Authorised Officers who are also Petitioning Officers for the discharge of duties under the Mental Deficiency Acts. The number of cases dealt with during the year was 54.

Certified Cases under the Lunacy Act.

Cases Admitted under 3 Day Order.

*Cases admitted under the Mental
Treatment Acts.*

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913—1938.

In regard to the work done during the year ended 31st December, 1949, I have to report the following :—

(a) Ascertainment.

The work of ascertaining mental defectives has continued to be carried out from reports received from parents, doctors, school teachers, nurses, etc. The number of cases ascertained during the year are as follows :—

Reported by Local Education Authorities :

Under Section 57 (3)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Under Section 57 (5)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Other cases reported and found "subject to be dealt with"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Total cases ascertained to be "subject to be dealt with"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Other cases reported who are not at present "subject to be dealt with", but for whom the Local Health Authority may later become liable	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total number of cases reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Number of cases awaiting vacancies in Institutions at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

Nineteen Petitions were presented during the year the majority being cases already in St. Mary's Hospital, but who had not, so far, been dealt with.

(b) Guardianship and Supervision.

Cases under Guardianship at the end of the year number as follows :—

Guardianship	...	...	...	...	23
Supervision	...	...	...	...	164
Total	...	...	...	...	187

Admitted to St. Mary's Hospital under an Order of the Court 2

It is becoming increasingly difficult to find persons willing to undertake the care of mental defective children. Supervision is effected by the Medical Officers, District Nurses, and Duly Authorised Officers.

(c) Training.

The Occupation Centre in its new quarters in Crocker Street, Newport, is doing excellent work under the two ladies who give unsparingly of their energy and time to the training of those unfortunate aments.

In addition one of the staff visits the homes of certain persons who for one reason or another are unable to travel to the Centre. Domiciliary instruction is given to a small extent but it is hoped that by appointing an assistant to help in the Centre that more time will become available for domiciliary teaching.

Mid-day meals are provided by arrangement with the School Meals Service.

Among the activities organised by the ladies in charge was a summer outing which was greatly enjoyed, and a Christmas Party complete with Christmas fare, crackers, Xmas tree and games.

To appreciate the results of the training in this Centre one must know the pre-entrance condition of the trainee and I must say that personally I have been most favourably impressed by the progress made not only in the occupations taught but in the behaviour. To see the results after a few weeks in a completely anti social ament is astonishing.

The average number in attendance is 21.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, PART III.

During the year the Council purchased and adapted two houses, one at St. Lawrence and one in Shanklin to accommodate as many as possible of the occupants of Part III accommodation at St. Mary's Hospital. One of these, St. Lawrence Dene, was opened on the 21st May, and accommodates 46 ; the other, Elmdon, Shanklin, was opened on the 22nd September and accommodates 26. Both are comfortably and attractively furnished in most beautiful surroundings and the whole atmosphere is as unlike an Institution as possible. They are called Guest Houses and the ladies in charge are called Hostesses.

It is difficult when building is impossible, to get premises suitable in every way, but apart from the fact that there are not sufficient single rooms, these two houses are otherwise almost all that could be desired.

Since the opening of these Guest Houses many requests have been received for similar accommodation. Each case is investigated and if genuine is put on the waiting list. At the end of the year the number on the waiting list was 17 and together with the Part III cases still in St. Mary's Hospital the total number to be accommodated is 29.

The Council intends to purchase other property in 1950 in order to reduce this number.

TABLE XXV.

The following table shows the number of residents in Part III Accommodation on the 31st December, 1948, and the numbers at the end of the year under review.

	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Number of Residents in Part III Accommodation on 31-12-48 ...	45	38	83
Number of Residents admitted direct to Part III Accommodation	25	17	42
Number of Residents transferred from the care of the Regional Hospital Board to Part III Accommodation	2	11	13
	<hr/> 72	<hr/> 66	<hr/> 138
Number of Residents transferred to the care of the Regional Hospital Board	14	12	26
Number of Residents discharged	13	9	22
Number of Residents who died	5	1	6
	<hr/> 32	<hr/> 22	<hr/> 54
Total number of Residents in Part III Accommodation on 31-12-49	<hr/> 40	<hr/> 44	<hr/> 84*
* Number of Residents at St. Lawrence Dene and Under Wath Guest House		24 men	22 women
Number of Residents at Elmdon Guest House		10 men	16 women
Number of Residents at St. Mary's Hospital		6 men	6 women

WELFARE SERVICES.

Blind.

The Isle of Wight Society for the Blind carry on on behalf of the Authority the Welfare Services for the Blind and the following table shows the position as to the 143 blind persons registered as to their training and employment.

TABLE XXVI.

<i>Age period.</i>	<i>In training at College or School.</i>	<i>Male.</i>		<i>Female.</i>	
		<i>Employed.</i>	<i>Unemployable.</i>	<i>Employed.</i>	<i>Unemployable.</i>
0—1	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	1 (3 years)
5—16	1	—	1 (Mental)	—	—
16—21	2	—	1 (Mental)	—	—
21—40	—	4	2	2	—
40—50	—	4	4	—	5
50—65	—	10	11	7	5
65—70	—	—	3	—	3
70 and over ...	—	—	26	—	51
Total	3	18	48	9	65

Deaf.

The Hants and Isle of Wight Society for the Deaf and Dumb act as agents for the Authority for the Welfare of the deaf and dumb and partially deaf.

The Society's Missioner has supplied the following report:—

“The Missioner has visited the Isle of Wight each month for the purpose of conducting a service in the deaf and dumb signs and finger-spelling. The services are held at St. Thomas's Church, Newport, and afterwards the deaf people attend the Parish Hall, where tea is provided.

Although there are about thirty people in the Island who are able to follow the services there are only about twelve who attend. This is due to the long distance that many would have to travel and to the fact that several are quite aged and infirm and have lost interest in any kind of social or religious activity. They appreciate a visit from the Missioner or from one of their more active deaf associates.

On February 18th this year arrangements were made for the Church Room in Crocker Street to be opened each Saturday afternoon and evening for the deaf people to gather together for social recreation. This has been made possible by the willing co-operation of Newport Branch of Toc H, and also the Vicar of St. Thomas's Church. One of the deaf and dumb men, Mr. Alan Barber, of Sandown, is acting as Secretary and has called upon most of the deaf people in the Island. It is hoped that with this small beginning (about a dozen attend), the Club will grow and become quite active, especially in the summer months when a number of deaf and dumb people from all over England regularly visit the Island.

It is hoped that a similar Club will shortly be started for the Hard of Hearing people and those totally deaf who do not easily mix with the deaf and dumb.

There are 22 names listed on our Register as "Hard of Hearing". These people have at some time or other written to us for advice and their cases have been dealt with either by a personal visit from the Missioner or by correspondence.

There are no cases of extreme hardship. The younger people are all working and home conditions are good. The older ones would appreciate more frequent visits and it is hoped that this will be possible in the near future. The Missioner visits the Island monthly apart from the Sunday services but it is difficult to get to many houses in a day.

Circulars are sent to every registered person, informing them of the activities."

At the end of the year the Register contained the names of 53 persons ; classified deaf and dumb 31 ; deafened or hard of hearing 22.

